

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

C/CRD

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

05 December 1983

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DDIS

2.

3.

DIS

5 DEC 1983

5 DEC 1983

4.

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C/CRD

6 Dec 83

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11.

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15.

Korea - file NARS

The results of my
phone call to Alan
Thompson for the
record only.

Dear!

UNCLASSIFIED WHEN
SEPARATED FROM
ATTACHMENTS

5 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Services

FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: NARS Proposal to Contract Systematic
Declassification Review to Private FirmsREFERENCE: Memo dated 2 December 1983, Subject: NARS
Idea of Contracting Declassification Review
to Private Business

1. Based on this mornings discussion, I called Alan Thompson on our reaction to his incipient proposal that NARS contract systematic declassification review to private firms. I told him that I had surfaced the idea in a very limited way and immediately got a strong and negative reaction. He was not surprised. I mentioned the impossibility of placing trust in people who had little to lose and he agreed. I told Alan that no mention of this was made to the DO, and they undoubtedly would have an even stronger, negative reaction. He agreed to that too. He stated that with any luck, we "have heard the last" of this proposal.

2. I also asked Alan about clearances for NARS personnel. The background investigations and clearance granting is done by the Civil Service Commission to TOP SECRET. Some employees, like section chiefs, are certified for Codeword material by CIA. The number that they can have so certified is limited and they must live with this. Codeword is supposed to be filed separately but, of course, that is not always done. When NARS spots files of Codeword, they are reviewed by those cleared for it. The other reviewers are cautioned that they might encounter Codeword and that when they do, they are instructed to take it to a Codeword certified reviewer. That, Alan believes, is the best they can do under the circumstances.

Attachment:

Reference Memo

DDA/OIS/CRD, (05 December 1983)

Distribution:

Orig - CRD Liaison w/NARS w/att

1 - CRD Chrono w/att

1 - OIS Chrono w/att

CONFIDENTIAL

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1.

DDIS

B

Ben,

2.

*for file
pse run
clear come up
Monday AM
DIS to discuss*

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Alan could not have brought this up at a worse time. The shudders that would go through the DO are unimaginable. I see the main drawbacks as:

1--Would the quality of the personnel be acceptable?

2--Would they have long-term prospects and a pension to guarantee fidelity?

3--Opens up hostile infiltration possibilities if there is no long-term arrangement.

4--Heavy turnover could become a problem.

5--Training could be a problem.

6--Given shortage of regular NARS personnel, how thorough would supervision and monitoring be?

How should we handle this?

2 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT: NARS Idea of Contracting Declassification
Review to Private Business

1. On 1 December 1983, Alan Thompson, head of the Declassification Review Division at NARS, requested a reaction to the following suggestion: The NARS budget is squeezed very tightly in the area of personnel payroll funds, but they have funds that could be used to have work done on contract. With this in mind, he is thinking of contracting out the systematic declassification review of records held at NARS. He has in mind some sort of service organization, but has no specific company or group in mind. He is thinking of contacting the National Classification Management Society (NCMS) for ideas or the names of companies or organizations that might be capable of doing this work. They would work under NARS supervision with guidance provided, as done now, with regular NARS reviewers. Their work would be monitored and checked. Mr. Thompson stated that this idea is in the initial stage, he has taken no actions, and does not even have a good idea of whether private organizations exist that could do this work. They would have to get security clearances for these people, and this would probably be done by the Defense Investigative Service (DIS).

2. Mr. Thompson would like our (CIA) reaction to this idea. Your comments and suggestions would be welcome.